

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph at page 2 lines 11 – 21 to read as follows.

Accordingly the present invention provides apparatus for measuring the strength of a person's respiratory muscles, which apparatus comprises a mouthpiece for the person, a flow transducer, a pressure transducer, a variable orifice valve, a motor for operating the variable orifice valve, and a microprocessor controller, wherein the microprocessor controller controls the motor to cause the variable orifice valve to vary its orifice size in response to at least one of flow and pressure signals obtained consequent upon the person breathing into the mouthpiece, wherein the orifice size maintains a constant predetermined pressure and enables measurement of the flow rate generated by the person, or the orifice size maintains a constant predetermined flow rate and enables measurement of the pressure generated by the person, and wherein the variable orifice valve is a rotary variable orifice valve comprising a cylindrical member, a longitudinally extending bore in the cylindrical member, a lateral aperture positioned in a wall of the cylindrical member and between ends of the cylindrical member, a sleeve, a longitudinally extending bore in the sleeve, and a lateral aperture positioned in a wall of the sleeve between ends of the sleeve, and wherein at least one of the lateral aperture positioned in the wall of the cylindrical member and the lateral aperture positioned in the wall of the sleeve is of a triangular shape.